

CHARTS
FLOW PLANS
PAINT NUMBERED
TREES

PERMANENT
SAMPLES

TIMBER
BOOKKEEPING

UNIT
RECORDS

THE DIAMETER
TAPE

TRIAL
BALANCE

PORT-A-
PUNCH

FOREST CONTROL

by

CONTINUOUS INVENTORY

"Today I have grown taller from walking
with the trees."

...Karl Wilson

Upper Darby, Pa. May, 1967 No. 149

If you are on the mailing list for the MANAGEMENT DIGEST of the Northeastern Area, State & Private Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, Upper Darby, Pa., you will have read the following quote from it. The Management Digest, issued biweekly, summarizes activities in State, private and federal forestry east of the Great Plains in the 20 States which lie north of Arkansas, Kentucky, and Virginia. If you would like to receive this publication, free of charge, a note to the Director of the Northeastern Area will bring it to you.

The excerpt, which concerns CFI, is as follows:

A quick survey of National Forest Administration Regional Offices reveals that in 1966 large forest ownerships in 30 States had 131 going Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) installations; 70 private, 24 State and local government, 5 university, and 32 United States Government.

CFI keeps track of the size and condition of individual trees and of the site upon which they grow. This is done by remeasuring and rejudging the trees and site on widely spaced, permanent sample plots every 5 years or less. Since 5,000 to 30,000 trees are measured, automatic data processing is required to produce reports of current and changed conditions. Summary (Executive) reports show overall progress of management. More detailed reports follow up on trends observed in the summaries and assist in management planning and plan revision. CFI usually reveals that (1) changes in forest are rapid, (2) mortality is higher than imagined, and (3) net growth is far below what it would be in a fully-stocked, healthy, tended stand.

W. W. BARTON, Forester

FORESTRY SCHOOL LIBRARY

COPY NO. _____



Foresters who expect CFI to do all their cruising (which it is not designed to do) will be disappointed. It is not intended to provide the local, detailed information necessary when prescribing silvicultural treatment -- here's where stand condition cruising should be used. Closely spaced, temporary samples measuring tree condition, as well as volume, and using broad limits for diameters, heights, species groups, etc., should be used to assess local stand conditions a year or two before the stand is scheduled for treatment.

CFI is designed to help build management plans, assess management effectiveness, and control management efficiency. A stand condition cruise determines silvicultural treatment of an individual stand. Neither tool can do the work of the other. Both are needed in forest management.

Like CFI, Stand Condition Cruising is sometimes more efficient when coupled with automatic data processing (to do the tedious calculating and summarizing). We know of several working models. Probably your own system can be quite easily computerized. S&PF specialists will be glad to help you explore the use of ADP in any phase of forest management.